NIH Summer Students, Teachers Present Annual Poster Day

By Carla Garnett

Derek Johnson said he never had so much fun and never learned nearly so much by being . . . well, wrong. All summer, since early June, he worked in an NICHD lab, formulating hypotheses and testing them out. Most of the time, Johnson readily admits with a grin, what he thought would happen did not.

"What was fun was discovering different ideas," he said. "A lot of the hypotheses did not come true, but I got the chance to perform procedures I had only read about until I came here. I didn't even like research before this."

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A second-year student at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Johnson, a native of Seat Pleasant, Md., came to NIH in the NICHD Summer Fellowship for Medical Students and presented his work along with about 200 fellow students and teachers recently at the second annual NIH/ADAMHA Summer Research Program Poster Day.

The brainchild of the NIH Office of Education, the poster session is the only campuswide presentation opportunity that encompasses all students and teachers working at NIH labs for the summer.

DCRT's Computer Facility: 'Round-the-Clock Support

It's an unforgiving pace, only slightly better than that of our heart, lungs, and brain. But the 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week operation (with breaks on major holidays) of the NIH Central Computer Utility is as vital to the health of NIH as those organs are to our own health.

The Central Computer Utility—known for its reliable, efficient service—processes our scientific data, presents it for analysis, and even delivers our biweekly payroll, to the tune of 10 million individual transactions a year. Yet many of us know less about its workings than we do about the intricacies of erythrocytes, alveoli, or axons and dendrites.

What happens to that data before it emerges from the computer room, ready for the pages of a prestigious journal?

Anatomy of a Computer Job

The journey begins when a person logged onto the DCRT mainframe system enters command that must go to the Central Computer Utility—a high-security area in Bldg. 12—for processing. When the user releases the "job" with a RUN command, it lines up in an electronic queue to be processed. An automated system allows each job to be processed...
HS-PAC Seeks New Members from Variety of Occupations

The health services professional advisory committee (HS-PAC) is seeking nominations for new members. PHS Commissioned Corps officers in the health services officer category and civil service employees in equivalent occupations are eligible for membership. A sample of occupations includes clinical psychology, social work, optometry, health administration, health education, medical services administration, radiological health, epidemiology, biostatistics, microbiology, molecular biology and toxicology.

The HS-PAC is an interagency advisory group composed of representatives from operating programs and staff components of the Public Health Service and organizations served by the PHS. It serves as a resource and advisory body by assisting in the development, coordination, and evaluation of activities related to the various professional disciplines in PHS. The HS-PAC provides advice and consultation to the surgeon general and the health services' chief professional officer (HS-CPO) on a wide range of issues.

The term of appointment is 3 years, with appointments made so that approximately one-third of the members' terms expire each calendar year. A list of nominees is developed by the PAC and forwarded to the agencies for concurrence. The HS-PAC and the HS-CPO will then select candidates for approval by the surgeon general.

If interested in membership, send a letter and CV by Sept. 15 to: Cdr. James D. McGlothlin; Chair, HS-PAC; NIOSH, DPSE, ECTB; 4676 Columbia Parkway R3; Cincinnati, OH 45226.

Eric Lander Leads Off NCHGR Genome Lecture Series

The first speaker for the NCHGR-sponsored 1992-93 Human Genome Lecture series will be Dr. Eric Lander, an associate professor of biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; he is also a member of the Whitehead Institute as well as director of the MIT Center for Genome Research, which is involved in mapping the mouse genome.

He received his undergraduate degree in mathematics from Princeton University in 1978 and his doctorate of philosophy from Oxford University in 1981. Lander has also been a MacArthur Prize fellow (1987-1992) and a Rhodes scholar (1978-1981).

The lecture, entitled "Genetic Dissection of Mendelian factors underlying quantitative traits in experimental organisms. For more information or to schedule a meeting with Lander, call Dr. Carol Dahl, 402-0838.

Correction

In the last issue of the NIH Record, two picture captions contained errors. The photo of the AIDS quilt on p. 16 should also have credited members of the 8th floor clinic staff. On p. 11, Dr. Giovanni Di Chiro's branch was misnamed. He is chief of the Neuroimaging Branch, NINDS.

Members of the General Electric ELFUN Society recently presented R&W with a check for $11,500 for Camp Fantastic. Shown are (front, from l) Cristin Mansfield and Mike Harrington. At rear are (from l) Jack Hanson, Randy Schools of R&W, Dee DoSatnick, Jim Tidd, Brice Zimmerman and Winnie DuVall.
Donald Lindberg To Head National Computing Office

The White House has announced the appointment of NLM director Dr. Donald A. B. Lindberg as the first director of the National Coordination Office for High Performance Computing and Communications, effective Sept. 1. Lindberg will hold both directorships concurrently. The announcement was made by Dr. Allen Bromley, assistant to the president for science and technology and director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

The presidential initiative on high-performance computing and communications (HPCC) is widely hailed as one of the most important national technology programs ever undertaken. With a current funding level of $800 million, and wide congressional support, the HPCC program seeks to develop in 5 years a family of computers with scalable performance up to a trillion operations per second (tera-op machines) and a digital network (the "National Research and Education Network") capable of transmitting a billion bits per second.

According to the White House announcement, the mission of HPCC is not exclusively technical. Through a series of "grand challenge" applications, it seeks to realize the benefits of high performance computing and networking as early as possible and distribute them widely. Though only in its first year as a unified interagency program, HPCC has already made progress toward its goals and its catalytic effect is widely felt.

Lindberg—who served as the DHHS representative on the federal coordinating committee for science, engineering, and technology (FCCSET) high performance computing working group—today serves on FCCSET's parent body, the committee on physical, mathematical, and engineering sciences. Dr. Daniel Masys, director of NLM's Lister Hill Center, serves as the NIH FCCSET representative. In 1990, FCCSET and the president's Office of Science and Technology Policy proposed a multi-agency High Performance Computing Program to strengthen the nation's research computing enterprise. The program includes representatives of the major federal agencies involved in conducting and supporting science.

High-performance computers and high-speed computer networks are key technologies for the future of biomedical science. Grand challenges in biomedicine such as the analysis of the human genome, prediction of biological structure and function from genetic code, and rational drug design, will require new and faster computers, advanced software, a National Research and Education Network (NREN), and expanded training of scientists in the use of computer-based tools.

"We see our role as ensuring that American medical scientists and health care professionals have access to the world of biomedical information made accessible through the higher performance computing technology and high-speed network resulting from HPCC," Lindberg said.

NLM has several programs that fall under the HPCC rubric. The NREN will greatly increase the number of users of NLM's databases as the nation's universities, libraries, hospitals, and research institutions become NREN members. Other components of the new initiative that tie in to NLM programs include basic research and human resources (e.g., medical informatics training and fellowships) and advanced software technology and algorithms (e.g., the "Visible Human" project and biotechnology research programs).

Plan To Attend Research Fest

For all those planning an end-of-summer vacation, don't forget to be back in time for one of the biggest events on the NIH calendar—the 1992 NIH Research Festival. This week-long program will be held from Monday, Sept. 21 to Friday, Sept. 25. The schedule includes five symposia, more than 30 workshops, and three poster sessions.

This year's Research Festival committee is chaired by Dr. Edward Korn, NHLBI scientific director. The festival begins with NIAID's Alumni Symposium in honor of Dr. Sheldon M. Wolf. In addition, there will be four other symposia: "Dopamine: Molecules, Membranes, Movement and Mind," "The Extracellular Matrix in Development and Pathology," "Transgenic Animals as Disease Models," and "Structural Biology." NIH director Dr. Bernadine Healy will deliver an opening address on Monday, Sept. 21.

Monday and Tuesday also include three poster sessions to be held under a special tent set up in parking lot 10D, located southwest of Bldg. 10. The sessions will feature nearly 500 posters from NIH, FDA, and ADAMHA researchers. And of course, many NIH'ers will want to attend some of the 31 workshops to be held on Tuesday.

Finally, the Technical Sales Association is sponsoring a Scientific Equipment Show under the tents on Thursday, Sept. 24 and Friday, Sept. 25. In a departure from past years, there will be no picnic during the 1992 festival.

To find the specific times and locations of the symposia, workshops and poster sessions, consult your Research Festival program booklet. The blue booklets containing the week's schedule of events were recently distributed desk-to-desk.

For more information, call Gregory Roa, 496-1776.

NIH Holds Public Open House, All Are Welcome

On Saturday, Sept. 12, NIH will open its doors to the general public for a special "Open House." All are invited to attend the Open House, which will be held under a tent in parking lot 16-D, located between the Medical Center Metro station and the National Library of Medicine (Bldg. 38).

Science enthusiasts of all ages will want to take this opportunity to visit the world's foremost center for biomedical research. At the Open House they will find computer exhibits, displays, and posters about the work being done in NIH's laboratories and clinics. They can also pick up literature discussing the latest discoveries about illnesses from the common flu to the rarest genetic disorder. And they will be able to learn more about the technological breakthroughs now making daily headlines in the news.

Attending the exhibits will be representatives from the more than 20 centers, divisions and research institutes that comprise NIH. Anyone interested in learning about modern medical science and understanding how NIH is discovering new knowledge for better health should drop by.

The Open House runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will also be a second Open House session on Monday, Sept. 14 for students in the local school systems. For more information, call the Visitor Information Center, 496-1776.
NIDCD and AAO-HNS served as the basis for this teleconference. "The teleconference format was chosen for this discussion to allow a geographically dispersed group of people to come together to present information, express opinions and answer questions," said Dr. James B. Snow, Jr., NIDCD director, during opening remarks.

This interactive video teleconference included a one-way transmission via satellite of television images to downlink sites across a wide geographic area. A two-way transmission between the Lister Hill Auditorium and an additional panel of four experts from NIEHS in Research Triangle Park, N.C., was also included. An 800 toll-free number was advertised at intervals during the teleconference encouraging individuals to call in and ask questions.

NIDCD sponsored 10 sites at universities and institutions around the country to receive the broadcast. A physician or scientist led audience discussions at each of those sites. In addition, the program was available to more than 240 institutions who are educational satellite subscribers.

The teleconference was hosted by local TV personality Paul Anthony, announcer of public television's Washington Week in Review. A panel of five scientists, including physicians and specialists in otolaryngology, speech and hearing, asthma and allergy, and medical psychology, presented valuable information on topics ranging from noise pollution to pollution's effect on smell and taste.

Dr. Ken Sexton, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's director of health research, emphasized in a taped interview the need for more scientific information. He indicated that science has not driven the agenda because scientific information is lacking. Decision makers must often rely on inadequate, inappropriate, or insufficient scientific information to guide them in the assessment and management of the risks and effects of various environmental pollutants. Sexton said that more science is necessary to make better decisions.

Panel moderator Dr. Byron J. Bailey, who is Weiss professor and chairman of the department of otolaryngology at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, echoed Sexton's concerns. He stated that there is a need for more scientific information, especially to identify important matters such as susceptibility to particular pollutants. He added that children and the elderly are at the greatest risk and that we need to know a great deal more about the health effects of exposure to various pollutants.

Dr. William W. Clark, who is senior research scientist at the Central Institute for the Deaf and chairman of the graduate program in communication sciences at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., addressed the topic of noise pollution, emphasizing that permanent hearing loss can result from a lifetime of exposure to noise. He added that in the U.S., one person in four over age 65 has difficulty understanding speech during everyday listening conditions. This hearing loss is partially due to the normal aging process but can also be attributed to cumulative noise exposure throughout the lifetime.

Clark feels that physicians, teachers, children and their parents must become aware of the cumulative effects of hazardous noise levels and take measures to protect their hearing. According to Clark, "The best hearing protection is the one the person will wear." He said the inexpensive insert foam-type ear plugs that can be purchased from most drug stores are as effective at reducing most nonoccupational noise levels as the expensive cushion-type protectors that fit over the ears.

Hearing is not the only sense that is vulnerable to pollution. Environmental pollutants also cause or contribute to a number of smell and taste problems. Because we breathe through both the nose and mouth, airborne contaminants can come in contact with the receptors for smell and taste. Dr. Susan S. Schiffman, professor of medical psychology in...
the department of psychiatry at Duke University Medical Center, addressed these issues at the teleconference.

Schiffman said that the number of people exposed to environmental pollutants is increasing dramatically. There are a huge number of pollutants including disinfectants, germicides, tobacco smoke and smog, to name a few. She added that the elderly are more vulnerable to the effects of these pollutants since the ability to smell and taste normally decreases with age. She said that the elderly also take medications or have diseases that affect smell and taste. Schiffman emphasized that research is necessary to reduce the effects of pollution on these senses.

Airborne pollutants may also contribute to allergic disease according to panelist Dr. Robert M. Naclerio, associate professor of otolaryngology and medicine in the departments of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery and pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine’s Asthma and Allergy Center in Baltimore. He stated that ozone, a major outdoor pollutant, has been found to induce allergic symptoms in individuals. He added that most studies have focused on the effects of single environmental factors. He stressed that more research is needed on the interaction of several environmental pollutants since our complex environment exposes us to a variety of pollutants.

Otolaryngologists—physicians specializing in disorders and diseases of the ears, nose, throat and head and neck in general—are noticing an increase in hearing loss, dizziness, painful sinuses, increased nasal secretions, pain in the face and head, sore throats, hoarseness and other chronic problems, according to Dr. Herbert C. Jones, an Atlanta otolaryngologist and associate professor of otolaryngology at the Morehouse School of Medicine. He said there is a strong suspicion that these increases are because of environmental pollutants.

The many telephone calls received during the broadcast confirmed that the teleconference was successful in reaching a varied, geographically dispersed audience. But this was only the beginning. A great deal of work remains. "The institute hopes that this teleconference will help establish a research agenda and help inform the public about effects of pollution," said Snow, in closing. "Scientists, policy makers and the public working together can make a difference."

The teleconference proceedings are available on VHS video cassette on loan from the NIDCD Clearinghouse. The 2-hour video is open captioned. Individuals can write to the clearinghouse at the following address to borrow a copy: NIDCD Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 37777, Washington, DC 20013-7777.

Sir Richard Doll To Present NCI Grand Rounds

Sir Richard Doll will give a lecture on "An Epidemiological Assessment of Progress Against Cancer," at NCI Grand Rounds on Wednesday, Sept. 16 at 8:30 a.m. in lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10, sponsored by the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control.

Doll received his training at St. Thomas’s Hospital Medical School, University of London, and has held numerous posts including director of the Medical Research Council’s statistical research unit, Regius professor of medicine, Oxford University, and director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund’s cancer epidemiology and clinical trials unit. Currently, he is an honorary member of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund’s cancer studies unit at Oxford.

Doll continues his long and distinguished epidemiologic research career with interests in environmental, occupational and lifestyle risk factors for a wide variety of disorders including ulcers and cancer. His study of the mortality of doctors in relation to their smoking habits, published in 1954, remains a cornerstone in the evidence linking cigarette smoking and cancer.

Doll will be available to staff in the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control to discuss topics of mutual interest. For more information contact Dr. Douglas L. Weed, 496-8640.

While in Bethesda, Doll will receive the Lilienfeld Award from the American College of Epidemiology at its annual meeting.

Celebrate Women’s Equality, Sept. 17 in Wilson Hall

All NIH employees are invited to “Celebrate Women’s Equality” on Thursday, Sept. 17, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Bldg. 1, Wilson Hall. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Vivian W. Pinn, director, Office of Research on Women’s Health. Her talk, entitled “Beyond Equality: Reaching New Heights,” will focus on the empowerment of women and its subsequent effects on their career patterns in the scientific workplace.

The celebration, sponsored by the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) and the advisory committee for women, commemorates the 72nd anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution giving women the right to vote. This recognition of the political rights of women came only after decades of work by individuals and private and government organizations.

Today, women in most countries have the right to vote and can be elected to public office on the same basis as men. OEO invites workers to celebrate the freedom and advances accorded American women by passage of the 19th Amendment.

Sign language interpretation will be provided. For additional information and reasonable accommodation, contact the OEO, 496-6301.

Family Care Fair Set, Sept. 16

The NIH day care committee is sponsoring a Family Care Fair on Wednesday, Sept. 16 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Visitor Information Center, Bldg. 10.

The fair will feature child care and elder care resource and referral services, NIH onsite child care facilities, and other community resources for work/family issues. Guest speakers include Carol Walsh, from Child Care Connection, and Grace Lebow, from Aging Network Services. They will address resource and referral services in Lipssett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10, from 10 to 11 a.m. The fair is open to all NIH employees.
Training Center Launches Diversity of Services

The NIH community is moving rapidly into a new fiscal year and faces heady challenges in an austere budget climate. Researchers and administrators alike are focusing limited resources on their highest priorities and seeking innovative, cost-effective approaches to harness technology, boost performance, and develop and retain an essential resource—the NIH staff.

The NIH Training Center understands the challenges its customers face. Managers have made substantial investments in technology and need to get the most from these investments. Training is a key component in enhancing productivity and efficiency.

Employees at all levels are now required to handle increasingly complex tasks. For example, animal caretakers are switching from pencils and paper to PC databases to track their work; researchers want to present the results of their work with sophisticated computer graphics; and administrators need to manage property inventories and complex procurement processes. Work teams all across campus need to hone their interpersonal, negotiating, and teamwork skills. Managers are employing "total quality management" concepts and tools to enhance organizational effectiveness.

To help managers meet their FY 1993 goals, the NIH Training Center will offer nearly 200 topics in its regularly scheduled training courses and programs. In addition, it will continue its partnerships with ICDs that need custom-tailored training in such topics as performance evaluation, interviewing skills, managing personality types and styles at work, and personal computing/networking.

Keep an eye out for the new FY 1993 Training Catalog and first quarter training brochures. The catalog, designed as a planning document for managers and employees, has a new format this year. It describes courses, programs, and services available from the Training Center and indicates frequency of offerings.

The three quarterly brochures (personal computing, office operations and administrative systems, and supervisory and management training) give supervisors and their employees specific course dates, locations, costs, and registration information. Catalogs and brochures are available on racks in Bldgs. 31, 30, 10, 1, Westwood, EPN, and EPS and in ICD personnel and administrative offices. Quarterly brochures are mailed directly to employees.

NIH employees can access the NIH Training Center Catalog through a computer program called ENTER TRAINING. If you can access WYLBUR, just type the words ENTER TRAINING at the question mark (?). (ENTER TRAINING can also give you access to DCRF course offerings, as well as information about training offered by other NIH organizations.)

If you are a WYLBUR user, you can also access TRAINNET, a national and international listing of courses organized by subject, dates, and geographic location. Call 496-2146 for more information.

The next issue of the NIH Record will provide details on the diversity of new programs, courses, and services offered by the NIH Training Center.

Computer Fair Needs Volunteers

The office technology coordinators (OTC), the automatic data processing/extramural programs coordinating committee (ADP/EP), and the Office of Equal Opportunity at NIH are planning a fair here titled "Computers: Accessibility-Adaptability-Awareness" on Apr. 29, 1993.

The recently passed Americans with Disabilities Act requires that computer and telecommunication products and services be accessible to employees with disabilities. This fair is designed to promote awareness and to demonstrate the various types of equipment and software that are available for computer accessibility and adaptation.

The organizing committee is seeking volunteers who have knowledge of, or interest in, computer accommodations for the disabled to participate in this fair to ensure that the needs of the community for computer accessibility are addressed.

In addition, the committee would appreciate any personal recommendations about equipment or software that provides accessibility and adaptability for persons with disabilities for possible inclusion in the fair. Please contact any of the committee members: Bonita Condon, 496-1004; Steven Hausman, 402-1691; Joan Brogan, 496-2906; Carolyn McHale, 496-0799; Anne Robertson, 496-6693; Susa Hamilton, 402-1128; Leslie Barden, 496-2339.

Comment on Day Care at NIH

The Collins Management Consulting, Inc., is under contract to provide an assessment of the NIH day care facilities. The company will hold a meeting on day care in order to obtain NIH employee input on Wednesday, Sept. 16 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10. All are invited to attend.

NIAID’s Dr. John I. Gallin has been elected president of the International Immunocompromised Host Society (IHS); he is director of NIAID’s Division of Intramural Research and chief of the Laboratory of Host Defenses. His most recent research pioneered the way for Food and Drug Administration approval of a bio-engineered version of interferon gamma, a substance produced naturally in the body that helps enhance the immune system’s ability to fight infection. Also involved in IHS are Drs. Philip Pizzo, Anthony Fauci, Stephen Chanock and John E. Bennett.
Consensus Conference To Explore Gallstone Operation Procedures

An NIH Consensus Development Conference, "Gallstones and Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy," will be held Sept. 14-16 in Masur Auditorium, Clinical Center.

Sponsored by NIDDK and the NIH Office of Medical Applications of Research, the conference will be chaired by Dr. John Gollan of Harvard Medical School.

Gallbladder disease, or cholelithiasis, is one of the most common digestive diseases physicians and surgeons encounter. An estimated 20 million people in the United States are affected, and more than 500,000 gallbladder removals (cholecystectomies) are performed each year. Women have a higher incidence of gallbladder stones than men. Until 1989, cholecystectomies to remove the gallbladder and its stones were performed only by an operation in which the abdomen was opened and the gallbladder was viewed and removed directly. Drawbacks associated with this very safe, conventional approach of open laparotomy were relatively long hospital stays and long-at-home recoveries, pain and infections. In 1989 surgeons in France and in the United States reported their experience with a new approach to gallbladder removal, laparoscopic cholecystectomy.

In laparoscopic cholecystectomy, a surgeon inserts a viewing instrument into the abdomen through a very small incision. The gallbladder and other abdominal organs are then viewed remotely on a TV screen via the laparoscope. Instruments to dissect, clamp and remove the gallbladder are then inserted through other very small punctures and the gallbladder is removed without opening the abdomen. This new surgical technique offers the advantage of shorter hospital stays and quicker return to work, less pain and fewer complications such as infection. The technique has spread very quickly and some 15,000 surgeons have now received some training in laparoscopic cholecystectomy. The demand for the procedure is high; more than 80 percent of cholecystectomies are now being performed using laparoscopy.

However, laparoscopic surgery is quite different than open surgery and requires special training. Not only is the image on the screen reversed from the actual anatomy, but the instruments being used do not allow the surgeon to "feel" the tissue being dissected. Recently, reports of complication, though low in number, have raised concern about the safety and efficacy of the new technique. Avoidance of injuries to the bile ducts is a primary concern. The consensus conference will compare data on efficacy and safety of laparoscopic cholecystectomy with the more traditional surgical and medical treatments for gallstone disease. Participants will consider such questions as: Which patients with gallstones should be treated? Which patients should be treated with laparoscopic cholecystectomy? What are the alternative medical and surgical treatments of gallstone disease?

Sam Overton Gains Smiles for Dental Institute

The dental clinic is busy this morning. Patients are waiting to have x-rays taken and the receptionist calls over the loudspeaker announcing another arrival.

Sam Overton takes it all in stride. He's slightly behind schedule but moves in a calm, unhurried manner to make sure that all patients are given the time they deserve.

Overton is the diagnostic radiological technologist in NIDR's dental clinic in the Clinical Center. He takes and develops dental x-rays for CC patients who need dental care and for participants in NIDR clinical trials.

The next patient looks more at ease after he gives her his friendly smile. Says Overton, "I follow advice someone gave me years ago. 'If you see someone without a smile, give him one of yours.' I try to remember to do that."

Recently, DHHS honored Overton with the Secretary's Special Citation for Ten Outstanding Employees of the Year. He was recognized for his technical expertise, compassion in caring for patients, initiative in gaining new skills, and dedication to helping coworkers perform their tasks.

Overton attributes his good will and unfurled demeanor to the power of positive thinking—a philosophy he adopted a long time ago when he faced some personal problems. He has read several books on the subject. His favorite is The Greatest Salesman in the World, by Og Mandino. Overton says, "It was written for salespeople but anyone can learn from it. There are ten statements in the book that I try to use as a way to live my life. When I'm faced with a difficult situation I think of some of those ideas."

Overton began his career in dentistry after a serendipitous meeting with a friend who was on his way to enlist in the Air Force. Overton went with him and signed up too. He was assigned to the dental corps and trained as a dental assistant. He later became a preventive dentistry technician, known in civilian life as a dental hygienist.

At the conference, gastroenterologists, surgeons, endoscopists, hepatologists, radiologists, epidemiologists, and others will participate in 1½ days of presentations and discussion.

Sessions will run from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, and 9 to 11 a.m. on Wednesday. The conference is free and open to the public. A press conference will take place at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 16.

The agenda and registration forms can be obtained from Debra Steward at Technical Resources Incorporated, (301) 468-1047 or (301) 770-0610.
POSTER DAY

(Continued from Page 1)


"If you tell students in the beginning of the summer that they will be presenting their work," said Dr. Michael Fordis, OE director, "then they think very differently about their projects. They begin to see that techniques are merely the tools to answer questions about nature. Their perspective changes."

Planning to specialize in pediatrics, but not particularly interested in research, Johnson thought a bit of NICHD lab experience would help him gain perspective on the array of career choices available to him. He worked with Dr. Charles Strott in the section on adrenal cell biology in the Endocrinology Research Branch.

"I wasn't sure I would like the lab," Johnson said, "but I was sure the experience wouldn't hurt me for a summer or two. I was surprised to realize I was enjoying it."

Another hometown student, Ijeoma Nwaeze, a junior at the University of Maryland, College Park, who performed research here through the Stay-in-School Program, is seriously contemplating a career in science after spending his summer at NIH. He said the challenge of the work appealed to him.

"Having to really think things through, carrying out experiments and getting to see the results has got me debating a career in research," said Nwaeze, who worked in NICHD's Human Genetics Branch with Dr. Anil Mukherjee.

Biology/physics teacher Anthony Umelo was at NIH this summer picking up laboratory techniques to pass on to his students at Anacostia High School in Washington, D.C. Working with Dr. Bonnie Dunn in the radiochemistry section of the Clinical Center's department of positron tomography, Umelo said he learned a lot about using the cyclotron and, inevitably, crucial lessons about presenting the results of his work.

"It was very inspirational," he said, smiling ruefully as he juggled and struggled to retack the drooping elements of his poster presentation. "I haven't tackled this properly," he admitted in a loud whisper. "They taught me how to do this, but I'm still learning. The program was rewarding for me. I will take a great deal of information back to my classes."

Explained Fordis, "Presenting their work is part of the scientific process. If they have not had the opportunity to share their projects, then they really have not had a chance to experience the whole spectrum of research."

Eyitayo Oturo, a spring 1992 graduate of Bethune-Cookman College who came to the U.S. from Nigeria in 1987, said studying at NIH helped clarify her schoolwork.

"I learned biochemistry in school," she said, "but I didn't really understand it until I came here. Doing the experiments and listening to the scientists explain their projects put it all together for me. Suddenly everything clicked."

After spending 10 weeks with preceptor Dr. Michael Beaven in the cellular pharmacology section of NHLBI's Laboratory of Chemical Pharmacology, Oturo will be entering the University of Iowa in the fall to pursue an advanced degree in chemistry.

Fordis said OE realizes that 3 months is hardly enough time for would-be investigators to get their scientific feet wet, much less immerse them in the research community. But, he says, it sometimes does not take long for students to catch research fever.

"We recognize that in the summer one cannot get too much in terms of research..."
results,” he said, “and a lot of the students do return for a couple of years. But even the ones who only come for one summer have said they found the experience very rewarding. They can see that their work has an impact on the work of others. People treat them as colleagues and presenting posters and entertaining questions gives them much more self-confidence about what they’re doing.”

“This summer I learned even more than last year,” concluded Amy Kingman, a first-year medical student at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, who can probably be considered a veteran of NIH summer programs. This year the aspiring physician spent her second summer with Dr. George Chrousos in NICH’s Developmental Endocrinology Branch.

“I had a lot more autonomy in the lab and I really liked sort of doing my own thing,” said Kingman, a Bethesda resident who graduated recently from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She said she hopes her work here on corticotropin hormone in rat ovaries and its possible implication in human ovaries is a precursor to the kinds of problems she will tackle in her career. “I’m mostly interested in clinical medicine and working with patients [as opposed to lab work]. But what’s so exciting about NIH is the joining of the two.”

Dr. Lynn Huerta recently joined the NIDCD staff as a program administrator in the Division of Communication Sciences and Disorders. She shares responsibility for research grants in the extramural hearing program. Huerta served as the director of audiology at Ear, Nose and Throat Associates in Waterbury, Conn., before joining the faculty of the department of communication sciences and disorders at Southern Connecticut State University in 1990. She was an assistant professor of audiology at Howard University during the 1991-1992 academic year. She received her Ph.D. in hearing science from Vanderbilt University. Her areas of expertise include basic and applied auditory neuroscience.

**NIDCD Hosts Visiting Scientist from India**

Dr. Ishwar Chander Verma, a pediatrician and geneticist from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India, recently joined the NIDCD intramural research program for 2 months as a visiting scientist in the institute’s Laboratory of Molecular Biology. His visit is the result of a new cooperative study between the NIDCD and Indian scientists to map the genes responsible for nonsyndromic recessive hearing impairment.

Hereditary hearing impairment occurs alone (nonsyndromic) or in syndromes in which there are other characteristics in addition to the hearing loss. The genes for several forms of syndromic hereditary hearing impairment have been mapped. The collaboration with Indian scientists addresses the nonsyndromic forms of hereditary hearing impairment. Recessive hearing loss occurs when both parents pass along the hereditary material or gene that causes deafness. Many people with recessive hereditary deafness have hearing parents and may have both hearing and deaf brothers and sisters. Although approximately 80 percent of hereditary hearing disorders are nonsyndromic and recessive, they are relatively difficult to identify because there are no non-auditory characteristics and the hearing loss may not appear for many generations in a family.

Approximately 40 to 50 percent of the students in schools for deaf children in southern India have nonsyndromic recessive deafness. According to Verma, “This is because of a popular custom followed primarily in southern India where close relatives, such as uncles and nieces, intermarry.” When close relatives intermarry, the chance that a child will inherit the same type of deafness gene from both parents is increased.

“This unique population creates an exceptional opportunity to study recessive hearing loss,” said Dr. James B. Snow, Jr., NIDCD director. “That understanding of the genes responsible for nonsyndromic recessive deafness may also contribute to knowledge about the development, maintenance and senescence of the inner ear.”

Born and raised in East Africa, Verma studied medicine in India. He earned his medical degree from the Amritsar Medical College, University of Punjab, India, in 1961. From there he went to Liverpool, England, for almost 4 years of postgraduate medical training at various hospitals where he was exposed to the study of genetics. Upon returning to India, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi, a specialty hospital similar to NIH’s Clinical Center, announced plans to develop a laboratory of genetics. Verma used that opportunity to help develop the medical genetics program at the institute.

Dr. Ishwar Chander Verma

Verma has received numerous prestigious honors and appointments for his contributions to pediatric medicine and genetics. He was elected fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in London in 1984, and honorary fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics in 1985. He holds many editorial posts including editor of the *Journal of International College of Pediatric* and corresponding editor of the *American Journal of Medical Genetics*. He has organized several international conferences on genetics including the recent India-USA workshop, “Mapping Genes of Deafness.” He has an extensive list of publications on such topics as the genetics of leukemia, mental retardation and muscular dystrophy.

Verma’s 2-month visit here has strengthened the framework for the cooperative NIDCD-India study. Refinement of the research protocol, analysis of several family histories, and introduction to techniques used in NIDCD’s Laboratory of Molecular Biology are the focus of this visit. Verma will share his experiences with scientists in India who will also be involved in the study.—Jo Bagley

**Diabetic Blacks Sought**

Researchers at NIDDK are seeking 18 to 65-year-old non-insulin-dependent diabetic volunteers for a study on how the kidney disease of diabetes runs in Black American families. Volunteers will be paid to fill out a questionnaire, give medical history and undergo a physical exam and laboratory tests. Contact Dr. Moreschi or Dr. Schmidt, 496-8269.
in priority order, while skilled computer operators monitor progress. For instance, people in Dedicated Equipment Services keep tabs on the telecommunication equipment to be sure users remain connected (1).

If the transaction requires data on a previously recorded computer tape, such information appears in a listing with other jobs needing tapes. An operator takes the listing to the tape library and identifies the items on the list (2). After collecting a cartful of tapes (3), he or she proceeds to the "staging" area, where they are lined up near the tape drives, devices that read information from the tapes. Another operator enters a command into a terminal, letting the system know the tapes are ready to go (4).

Other specialists monitor the tape drives. When the flashing red lights atop these machines turn to yellow, a crew member responds to the machine's prompt by replacing one tape with the next in the queue (5). The job then proceeds electronically until a message appears on the screen back in the user's office or lab that the process is complete.

If a mainframe user chooses to print a job, a third group of computer center specialists is busy monitoring the center's 16 printers, which outwardly resemble industrial-sized photocopiers. These workers remove printouts from the printers, detect malfunctions, and load any special forms, like labels or notebook paper, onto the machines (6). Printouts are then sent to the Output Distribution area, where they are sorted and mailed or placed in the user's locked box (7). In an average month, printed material consumes around 8 million feet of continuous-form paper and over 1 million single-sheet pages. Shift supervisors keep tabs on the entire process from a central monitoring area (8).

As this brief "tour" indicates, mainframe computer users' processing and printing...
requests do not just “zap” over to the Central Computer Utility and magically appear (although sometimes it may seem that way). Even with increasing automation, this high-technology utility needs skilled specialists to ensure every job runs smoothly.

NIA’s Reubin Andres Honored at Ceremony

Scientist and Renaissance man were terms used to describe Dr. Reubin Andres at a Festschrift in his honor held recently on the Johns Hopkins Bayview research campus; Andres is NIA clinical director and chief of the Laboratory of Clinical Physiology at the institute’s Gerontology Research Center.

This soft-spoken Texan began his career in 1950 when he came to Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, where he continues as a professor of medicine. Then he worked with Dr. Kenneth Zierler, who described Andres’ origins as a clinical investigator.

Zierler’s long working relationship with Andres began via referral by a colleague at the Southwestern Medical School in Texas, who wrote telling him of a superb young doctor who should work with him. A month or so later he received a telegram—“Andres ready for interview.” Zierler remembered he had no power or money to hire Andres, but finally was able to get him an appointment.

The two colleagues wrote 11 papers and many abstracts in the 1950’s using their innovative forearm technique to study glucose metabolism (including the “close-arterial” injection of metabolites and hormones into the brachial artery). This forearm technique allows study of metabolism without the complications of the body’s response, for example, to glucose or insulin.

Andres’ early experiences with forearm studies probably primed his mind for one of his greatest innovations, the glucose clamp technique. This technique has become the standard for studies of glucose metabolism around the world, and perhaps, as Dr. Robert Sherwin of Yale University School of Medicine said in his talk, should be called the “Andres clamp.”

Andres, who joined what is now the NIA Gerontology Research Center in 1962, used his technique to study mechanisms underlying glucose intolerance associated with aging. His studies of Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging (BLSA) participants played a role in revision of traditional glucose tolerance standards to more reasonable levels for middle-age and older people.

Roasting Andres at the Festschrift banquet, BLSA volunteer Malvin Schechter of Mt. Sinai Medical Center said, “he noodged the experts in diabetes about age-adjusted diagnostic criteria until they upped the blood glucose values ... by the stroke of a pen, as it were, this definitional change yielded a miracle of cost containment, freeing millions of Americans from the rigors of treatment for diabetes.”

During the day-long session, many of Andres’ former fellows told of their experiences in Baltimore and how these affected their careers positively.

Among them were Dr. Dariush Elahi of the division of gerontology, Beth Israel Hospital and Harvard University, and Dr. Dana K. Anderson of the University of Chicago, the organizers of the Festschrift. Also on hand were Dr. John Rowe, now president of Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York; Dr. Jordan Tobin, chief of the applied physiology section in Andres’ laboratory; Dr. Jane F. Porter of the department of medicine, University of Nebraska; and Dr. Judith Hallfrisch, chief of the carbohydrate nutrition laboratory at the Department of Agriculture.

Andres’ colleagues praised him as “a supremely critical and careful analyst of scientific data. We have known him as both a mentor and colleague who significantly affected our scientific careers.” They also cited him as “an accomplished musician, a devotee of tennis, a scholar of art and literature, and a raconteur of Texas tales.” He is, they said, "the true personification of a Renaissance man."—Dan Rogers

Research Volunteers Requested

The Laboratory of Neurosciences, NIA, seeks healthy volunteers to participate in a study investigating the effects of aging on brain functions. Volunteers must be in excellent health, medication-free, and without past or present major health problems. Men above age 60 and below age 30 are particularly needed. Procedures require approximately 13 hours; participants can receive a stipend of up to $300 depending on actual time involved. For more information, call 496-4754, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Information Resources Forum Scheduled Sept. 9 in Lipsett

The office technology coordinators and the automatic data processing/extramural Programs (ADP/EP) Coordinating committee are sponsoring an “Open Forum” with Frank Hartel, acting associate director of the Office of Information Resources Management. The meeting will be held on Sept. 9 from 2 to 4 p.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater. The meeting is open to all NIH staff interested in information resources management. This is an opportunity for all those interested in computing, networks, IRM policy, and IRM planning at NIH. For more information, call Carolyn McHale, 496-0799.
Campers enjoyed hot air balloon rides over the Blue Ridge mountain countryside.

Camp Fantastic Celebrates Tenth Anniversary

The banner behind this group of campers and counselors gives the reason for their excitement.

Camper Matthew Wierzbicki gets a lot of attention from "Momma T," also known as Terre Stockstill, program director at the 4H Center where camp has made its home for the past decade.

Camper Ross Moerschell yells "Fore!" on the camp driving range.

Lining up for mail call outside the camp dining hall are (from l) Samantha Murphy, Corey Wilson and Teresa Dietz (with camera).

Samantha Murphy blows bubbles, unhindered by camper Phil Smithhiser.
Dipping their oars at the head of two warring vessels in Lake Culpeper on the camp grounds are Anita Fusco (far l) and Scott Sorensen (far r).

Preparing for calisthenics class are (from l) counselor Bill McGough, and campers Mario Parham and Torreon Spencer.

Sickle Cell Volunteers Needed

The NIDDK seeks individuals 18 years and older with sickle cell disease for neuropsychological assessment (CAT, PET, motor skills tests, etc.). Individuals must have no prior history of strokes, seizures, or head trauma, be able to withstand a medication-free period, and currently be under the care of a physician. Transportation costs will be provided. For more information call Cindy, 402-3087.

Exhibit Shows Medicinal Plants

An exhibit of medicinal plants called the "Healing Garden" has opened in the NIH Visitor Information Center, located on the B1 level of Bldg. 10.

Like the plants that comprise it, the exhibit will grow continually as new additions are made. Its purpose is to illustrate the contribution of plants and plant extracts to 20th century medicine.

Some 25 percent of all prescription drugs are said to be derived from plant sources. Even aspirin has its origins in tree bark. Who can tell how many more palliatives—even cures—are growing around us, awaiting discovery?

Today, many fear that as rain forests, where more than half the world's plant species are located, are destroyed, the possibility of finding cures is perishing, too.

While several additions to the garden are presently being researched, curator Dinah Bertran would appreciate it if anyone with knowledge of plant/drug connections would contact her by phone (496-1776) or fax (402-0601).

The Healing Garden can be seen Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
The Record

September 1, 1992

In conjunction with a new initiative, NIA hosted a workshop Aug. 12-13 to explore the application of basic behavioral and social research to issues affecting older people, including memory, health services, transportation, employment, and social support. Dr. Gene D. Cohen, acting NIA director (second from l), welcomed the participants to the session "Applied Gerontology Research: Setting a Future Agenda." He was joined by (from l) cosponsors Dr. Alfred Duncker, acting director, division of research and development, Administration on Aging, and Dr. Daniel Thursz, president, National Council on the Aging, and Dr. Manuel Miranda, NIA assistant director for interdisciplinary research.

One-Day Symposium Addresses RNA Function and Metabolism

A mini-symposium on "RNA Function and Metabolism" will be held Oct. 16 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Hood College in Frederick, Md. This is the second annual fall mini-symposium, a series sponsored by the Foundation for Advanced Cancer Studies, Inc. The deadline for registration is Oct. 2.


The registration fee of $35, which includes lunch and refreshments, should be made payable to the Foundation for Advanced Cancer Studies, Inc., and forwarded to Margaret Fanning, FACS, P.O. Box 249, Libertytown, MD 21762. For further information, call (301) 898-9266 or fax to (301) 898-9173.

DCRT Holds Neural Networks Seminar

The Laboratory of Statistical and Mathematical Methodology, DCRT, will sponsor a seminar series titled "Neural Networks: Basic Design Principles and Methodology," presented by Prof. Daniel S. Levine of the mathematics department, University of Texas at Arlington.

The seminars will develop some of the principles repeatedly used in the design of artificial neural networks (ANNs) and the methods for suitably combining these principles in order to solve specific problems. Such problems may arise either from a particular computing or engineering application or from the need to better understand and predict neurobiological or behavioral data.

Artificial neural networks are used to arrive at results from patterns of data—which may be noisy or poorly understood—by training and adapting themselves until they respond correctly to numerous examples. ANN architectures are loosely modeled on biological neural networks. Different applications, such as pattern classification, robotic control, and knowledge representation involve different types of networks, but all may use similar types of modular organization.

The seminars will be held in Bldg. 12A, Rm. B51, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 14, 15, and 16 and from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Sept. 17. Call 496-2339 to reserve a space.

DCRT Computer Training Courses

Classes | Dates
--- | ---
Neural Networks: Basic Design Principles and Methodology | 9/14-17
Orientation to Running SAS on the Mainframe | 9/16
SAS Fundamentals I for Programmers | 9/17, 18
SAS Fundamentals I for Non-programmers | 9/21-22
PC Viruses | 9/23
Macintosh Viruses | 9/23
ENTER MAIL | 9/23
BITNET | 9/24
SAS Fundamentals II for Programmers | 9/24, 25
SAS Fundamentals II for Non-programmers | 9/29, 30
Managing Data Effectively | 9/30
Intermediate PC-DOS | 10/1-2
Macintosh Hypercard | 10/5
Beyond Basic WYLBUR | 10/5-9
OS/2 2.0 Overview | 10/9
Topics in Flow Cytometry | 10/9

Classes are offered by the DCRT Training Program, without charge. Call 496-2339 for more information.

Research Subjects Needed

NICHD is seeking infants for a longitudinal study of cognitive and social development. Infants must be 2 months old between Sept. 1 and Nov. 15. For more information, call Deborah Clay, 496-6832, and ask for information on the infant study.
**TRAINING TIPS**

The NIH Training Center, Division of Personnel Management, offers the following “hands-on” IBM and Macintosh computer courses:

**Personal Computing Training 496-6211**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Titles</th>
<th>Starting Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome to Macintosh</td>
<td>9/11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Macintosh Techniques</td>
<td>9/18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intro to WordPerfect 2.0 (Mac)</td>
<td>9/14</td>
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<td>Excel Level 4</td>
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<td>Lotus for Mac-Level 1</td>
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<td>3Com PC Network-Level 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intro to Personal Computing for New Users</td>
<td>9/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster Recovery and Data Retrieval for the PC</td>
<td>9/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intro to DOS 5.0</td>
<td>9/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intermed. Harvard Graphics, Rel. 3.0</td>
<td>9/11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intro to Harvard Graphics, Rel. 2.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intro to Paradox</td>
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<td>Intermediate Paradox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intro to DBASE IV (New)</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMPACT System for Personnel Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMPACT System for Administrative Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMPACT System for Professional Staff</td>
<td>9/21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intro to CRISP</td>
<td>9/18</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRISP Thesaurus</td>
<td>9/18</td>
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**Bahama Cruise Planned for April**

Cruise the Bahamas aboard one of Royal Caribbean’s most dazzling ships—the Nordic Empress. On board you’ll be treated to superb dining, entertainment and accommodations, and great service. The itinerary for the 4-night cruise includes Freeport, Nassau, and Coco Cay. R&W has 23 cabins reserved for the Apr. 12, 1993, sailing, available to members at 20 percent off the regular rate. Inside cabins are $799 per person, based on double occupancy; outside cabins are $899. Stop by the R&W Activities Desk or call 496-1891, and press 16 to leave a message.

**Outlet Shopping Trip Planned**

Get a jump on your holiday shopping with big savings at the Reading, Pa., outlets. Spend Friday, Nov. 6 at the Vanity Fair Factory Outlet complex with more than 40 manufacturers’ outlets and almost a million square feet of shopping. Merchandise includes clothing, electronics, housewares, leather goods, luggage, shoes, sporting goods, tools and more. There is no sales tax on shoes or clothing. Cost for the trip is $24 and includes transportation and lunch and pastries for the ride up. Bus leaves NIH Bldg. 31C at 7 a.m. and returns at about 7 p.m. Reserve your seat at any R&W location. For more information call 496-4600.

**Choyke’s Research Laundered**

A Clinical Center radiologist has been honored by the Society of Uroradiology as first place winner of best research for his paper titled “Natural History of Renal Lesions in von Hippel-Lindau Disease.”

Dr. Peter Choyke, of the CC diagnostic radiology department, conducted a study that has led to a better understanding of the progression of von Hippel-Lindau (VHL) disease and improved treatment options for patients and their families.

VHL is a hereditary disease that can affect the eye, brain, pancreas, adrenal glands, and kidneys. In the kidneys, the disease sometimes causes a form of cancer. The disease occurs in about 1 in 40,000 people, and about 50 percent of family members of patients with this disease will also be affected.

NCI is studying the disease to identify the gene that causes it and determine who will inherit it. In a collaborative effort with Dr. Berton Zbar, NCI-Frederick; Dr. Marston Linehan, Urologic Oncology Division, NCI; and Dr. Gladys Glenn, Cancer Diagnosis Branch, NCI, Choyke reviewed the CT scans of family members of VHL patients to determine whether any had the disease and to follow those who were positive to determine what kinds of tumors they developed and their rate of growth.

One hundred family members of VHL patients were found to have the disease.

“This is a unique collection of patients,” said Choyke. “No other institution has ever followed this number of patients in this organized and systematic way.”

Using serial CT scans, Choyke found a variety of kidney lesions in this study group, including simple cysts, complex cysts (composed of fluid and solid tissue), and solid tumors, which are usually malignant.

“We watched their development over time,” he said.

The majority of the simple cysts grew—some slowly, some fast. Some disappeared altogether. The solid lesions all enlarged, but at varying rates. The rate of growth was related to the number of lesions—the more there were, the faster they grew. The complex cysts also all enlarged.

“We established the tempo of the disease in a particular patient,” he said. “In some, the disease progressed at high rates. Other cases are milder and don’t progress.”

“This gives us a broader knowledge of how to treat the disease and improves treatment options, both at the Clinical Center and elsewhere,” he explained.

Many major institutions remove involved kidneys from VHL patients no matter what the stage of the disease. The choices are either to remove the kidneys entirely, remove only the lesions, or just observe. So patients run the risk of kidney failure due to surgery or dying of cancer if treatment is not aggressive enough.

“Physicians walk a tightrope with regard to treatment,” Choyke explained.

Another benefit of the study has been that it diagnosed VHL disease in many who were without symptoms and unaware they had it. “One 37-year-old brother of a VHL patient had a very large cancerous tumor that he didn’t know he had,” said Choyke. These patients have been able to get treatment much earlier and have extended their lives as a result.

An unexpected benefit is that the Clinical Center has become the focal point for a foundation that has been created for people affected by VHL. “There have been many family reunions in our radiology waiting room,” said Choyke.

“This has been true collaboration between the Clinical Center and NCI, and a good use of resources,” he added. “NCI researchers don’t have the time or resources to wade through the enormous numbers of images in such a study and we’re happy to do it.”

**Fencer Spector Wins Honors**

At the recent U.S. National Fencing Championship, Dr. Novena “Herb” Spector, founder and former head coach of the NIH Fencers Club, was the undefeated gold medal winner in the senior sabre competition for ages 70-75. Winning in his age group qualified him to compete in the super-senior event, where he once and won a silver medal.

“His fencing ability is milder and doesn’t progress,” he explained.

Dr. Novera “Herb” Spector, founder and former head coach of NIH Fencers Club, was the undefeated gold medal winner in the senior sabre competition for ages 70-75. Winning in his age group qualified him to compete in the super-senior event, where he once and won a silver medal.

**Pregnant Women Recruited**

The NICHD invites pregnant women to participate in studies of hormonal changes during pregnancy. Compensation is provided. Call Billinda Dubbert, 496-1891, and press 16 to leave a message.

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An NIH neurophysiologist known internationally for his work on nervous system-immune system interactions, Spector is a former fencing All-American (1941) and former 3-weapon champion of the U.S. (1956).

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In Matters of the Heart, Be Choosy ... Especially in September

You are running through the airport this month and notice a new poster, "In Matters of the Heart, Be Choosy." No, it can't be Valentine's Day—it's too hot and humid, and besides there are lots of happy, healthy foods smiling at you as you pass.

And just as the kids are going back to school and you thought it was safe to watch television again, you see cave men talking about how the downfall of the dinosaur could have been linked to their blood cholesterol levels.

Don't do a double take. These are all light-hearted attempts by NHLBI's National Cholesterol Education Program (NCEP) to get a very important message to the public: Keep your family's blood cholesterol level in check by eating foods low in saturated fats and cholesterol.

September is National Cholesterol Education Month. It is an annual event and an integral part of a broad national education campaign that goes on throughout the year to increase awareness of the importance of lowering high blood cholesterol levels as a way to reduce the risk of coronary heart disease (CHD). Other CHD risk factors include high blood pressure, smoking, physical inactivity, obesity, and diabetes. NCEP emphasizes the importance of paying attention to all the risk factors and making it a family affair to control blood cholesterol levels by eating foods lower in saturated fat and cholesterol.

This message is directed to all adults and children over the age of 2, as recommended by the NCEP's expert panel reports. All adults (age 20 and older) should also have their blood cholesterol checked and know their number.

Most recently, NCEP's expert panel on blood cholesterol levels in children and adolescents recommended screening blood cholesterol levels of children if they have a parent who has ever had high blood cholesterol (240 mg/dl and over), or a parent or grandparent who developed heart disease before 55 years of age. In addition, a child's blood cholesterol level should also be checked if the parent's medical history is not known. This is especially important in children with other risk factors for heart disease. So, if you are a parent, have your blood cholesterol level checked, and if it is high, have your children's level checked also.

At NIH, cholesterol screenings and other activities will be taking place throughout September in cooperation with NHLBI, Occupational Medical Services (OMS), R&W, and Guest Services, Inc.

First, OMS, in cooperation with R&W, conducts annual cholesterol screenings, expanded this year to include the Poolesville facility (see schedule). To have your blood cholesterol level tested, obtain a laboratory slip in advance from any R&W gift shop. The laboratory procedure costs $5. Employees may have their blood drawn at any of the screening sites on a first-come, first-served basis.

NHLBI's Facts About Blood Cholesterol will be provided to all screening participants. Detailed NHLBI brochures—Eating to Lower Your High Blood Cholesterol and So You Have High Blood Cholesterol—will be provided to individuals whose cholesterol readings are elevated.

### Schedule for Cholesterol Screening

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<td>8-11 a.m.</td>
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<td>Rm. 6C306</td>
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<td>Bldg. 13</td>
<td>Sept. 9, 23</td>
<td>8-11 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rm. G904</td>
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<tr>
<td>Westwood</td>
<td>Sept. 9, 23</td>
<td>1-3:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Rm. 11</td>
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<td>EPN/103</td>
<td>Sept. 10, 24</td>
<td>8:30-11 a.m.</td>
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<td>Federal/10B08</td>
<td>Sept. 10, 12</td>
<td>1:30-3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bldg. 38A</td>
<td>Sept. 17,</td>
<td>1-3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rm. B30Q</td>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fitness Center</td>
<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>noon-2 p.m.</td>
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<td>Bldg. 31/C</td>
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<td>Bldg. 31</td>
<td>Sept. 17</td>
<td>8:30-11:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rm. B2B57</td>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>a.m.</td>
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<td>Poolesville</td>
<td>Sept. 16</td>
<td>9-11 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bldg. 102</td>
<td>noon-2</td>
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<td>Conf. Rm.</td>
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<td>Bldg. 110</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conf. Rm.</td>
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You'll see NCEP posters in all of the NIH cafeterias during the month of September and can purchase special heart-healthy food selections from NHLBI's nutrition education program, "Play Your Cards Right, Stay Young At Heart."

National Cholesterol Education Month activities are also happening at the grass roots level. For example, the department of family medicine at the University of Maryland at Baltimore is organizing volunteers to distribute materials on cholesterol in 25 grocery stores in Baltimore's inner city neighborhoods. The materials will include NHLBI's Eat Right to Lower Your High Blood Cholesterol, a booklet written for patients with limited literacy skills. In other states, such as North Dakota and Michigan, health professionals are planning local activities to include cholesterol screenings, counseling, group classes, and personal media contacts.

### DES Affects Bone Growth in Animals

Exposure to environmental estrogenic compounds during fetal and newborn development might be very important for the development of bone tissue in adulthood according to a study in mice done at NIEHS.

The study, published in the March issue of Endocrinology and featured on its cover, reported that a transient exposure to the environmental estrogenic compound diethylstilbestrol (DES) in newborn mice 1 to 5 days old increased the density of bone in adulthood.

The study results are reinforced by a second study by the same researchers exposing fetal mice to DES. These and further studies are needed to understand how early exposure to estrogens might be of fundamental importance in determining a higher bone mass, which may influence the onset of osteoporosis, a thinning and weakening of bone in postmenopausal women and older men.

Estrogens are hormones present in both sexes but present at higher levels in women; estrogens play a key role in female reproductive functioning. Estrogens and estrogenically active substances that occur in the environment are of concern because they are capable of binding estrogen receptor sites, mimicking and modifying the hormonal functions of the body.

Animals have served as crucial models for studying human health effects of the synthetic estrogenic compound DES, a drug used for many years as therapy in pregnancy side effects.

### Sport Medicine's History Probed

The Washington Society for the History of Medicine will hold an evening program on the history of sport medicine on Thursday, Sept. 17 at 8 p.m. in Bldg. 38A, Rm. 1N30B. Historian Adam R. Hornbuckle will discuss "Physicians and the Rise of Sport: Late 19th- and Early 20th Century Origins of Sport Medicine," and Dr. Phil Teigen, deputy chief of NLM's History of Medicine Division, will address "The Beginning of Baseball Medicine in the 1880's."